



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

December 01, 2004

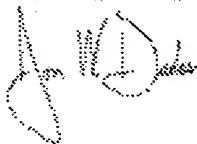
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT ANNEXED HERETO IS A TRUE COPY FROM THE RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE OF THOSE PAPERS OF THE BELOW IDENTIFIED PATENT APPLICATION THAT MET THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE GRANTED A FILING DATE.

APPLICATION NUMBER: 10/858,391

FILING DATE: *June 02, 2004*

RELATED PCT APPLICATION NUMBER: *PCT/US04/34353*

Certified by



Jon W Dudas



Acting Under Secretary of Commerce
for Intellectual Property
and Acting Director of the U.S.
Patent and Trademark Office

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL <small>Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b)</small>	Attorney Docket No.	2227-104
	First Inventor	Isaac Berg
	Title	Mirrored Oral-Product Container

1/302 U.S. PTO
0/858391

060204

☐ Applicant for Published Patent Application:

APPLICATION ELEMENTS See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.	ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner of Patents Box Patent Application Washington, D.C. 20231
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <i>(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)</i> 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Total pages [24] <i>(preferred arrangement set forth below)</i> - Descriptive title of the invention - Cross references to Related Applications - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R&D - Reference to sequence listing, a table or a computer program listing appendix - Background of the Invention - Brief Summary of the Invention - Brief Description of the Drawings - Detailed Description - Claims - Abstract of the Disclosure 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) (Total Sheets) [18] 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Oath or Declaration (Total Pages) [] a. <input type="checkbox"/> Newly executed (original or copy) b. <input type="checkbox"/> Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed) [Note Box 5 below] i <input type="checkbox"/> DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet.	7. <input type="checkbox"/> CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program 8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission a. <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Form (CRF) b. Specification Sequence Listing on: i. <input type="checkbox"/> CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or ii. <input type="checkbox"/> paper c. <input type="checkbox"/> Statement verifying identity of above copies ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s)) 10. <input type="checkbox"/> 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement <i>(when there is an assignee)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney 11. <input type="checkbox"/> English Translation Document <i>(if applicable)</i> 12. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement /PTO 1449 <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of IDS Citations 13. <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Amendment 14. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) <i>(Should be specifically itemized)</i> 15. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s). 16. <input type="checkbox"/> Request and Certification under 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i). 17. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

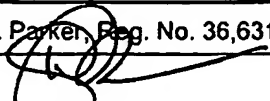
17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information below or in an application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76::

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.:

Prior application information: Examiner _____ Group/Art Unit _____

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

☒ Customer Number or Bar Code Label 6449

Address	Rothwell, Figg, Ernst & Manbeck Suite 800, 1425 K Street, N.W.				
City	Washington	State	D.C.	Zip Code	20005
Country	U.S.A.	Telephone	202-783-6040	Fax	202-783-6031
Name	Stephen B. Parker, Reg. No. 36,631				
Signature				Date	6/2/04

MIRRORED ORAL-PRODUCT CONTAINER

BACKGROUND

The present application claims priority to U.S. provisional application Serial No. 60/511,298 filed on October 16, 2003, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference as though recited herein in full.

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to containers for oral-products and some preferred embodiments relate to containers for breath fresheners, such as, e.g., mints or the like.

Discussion of the Background

In some circumstances in modern culture, individuals seek to enhance their personal image, such as, e.g., their appearance, their odor, and/or the like. Individuals may seek to enhance their personal image for a variety of reasons, such as, by way of example, to: a) prepare for a date and/or a romantic encounter; b) make a good impression on one or more individual; c) enhance one's self-confidence; and/or d) achieve a wide variety of other goals.

Breath Freshening

In modern culture, the use of breath fresheners to, e.g., enhance an individual's oral freshness, such as, e.g., oral cleanliness, oral odor and/or the like, has become widely accepted. A wide variety of breath fresheners exist in the market, such as, e.g., various breath freshening confectionaries and candies and/or the like, such as, e.g., mint-flavored breath fresheners, cinnamon-flavored breath fresheners, fruit-flavored (such as, e.g., lemon, lime, orange and/or the

like) breath fresheners; and/or the like. Some existing breath fresheners include that of, e.g., ALTOIDS, TIC TAC, BARKLEYS and various other breath freshener products.

Visage Freshening

In modern culture, the use of items to enhance an individual's visage or face is not as widely accepted. In some instances, individuals may carry compacts (having small mirrors and make-up) with which they may attend to their personal visage freshening (such as, e.g., farding).

However, while individuals often freely take breath fresheners in the accompaniment of others, individuals are often more reluctant to use a compact in the accompaniment of others. Among other things, the use of cosmetics, make-up and/or the like visage freshening products can often have a negative connotation, such as, e.g., creating an appearance of vanity. As a result, in order to be able to look at oneself in a mirror (such as, e.g., to ascertain if a need exists for visage freshening and/or to engage in visage freshening), an individual often has to leave a room to a location of privacy, such as, e.g., a bathroom or the like. While individuals may carry compacts or the like, in many contexts, individuals will not use them in the accompaniment of others. By way of example, while in a romantic setting, a woman may be reluctant to check her facial make-up in front of her partner. Among other things, the woman may not wish to portray vanity and/or to provide an appearance to her partner that she has some concern for the freshness of her visage – e.g. which might inadvertently be suggestive of personal vanity, of a level of interest in her partner, and/or the like.

There has been a need for a product that can overcome some of the above and/or other problems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The preferred embodiments of the present invention have been developed in view of the above mentioned and/or other issues in the related art. In some embodiments, one or more of the above and/or other problems related to visage freshening can be overcome. In addition, some preferred embodiments can advantageously provide a highly unique breath freshening container product having unique functional and aesthetic qualities.

According to some illustrative embodiments, an oral-product container includes: a) a plurality of breath fresheners contained therein for breath freshening purposes; and b) a mirror for visage freshening purposes. In some embodiments, the mirror can be on an interior of said container when said container is closed. In some embodiments, the mirror can be on an exterior of said container when said container is closed. In some illustrative embodiments, said breath fresheners include at least flavor from the group consisting of: peppermint; spearmint; other mint flavors; wintergreen; cinnamon; licorice; citric flavors; sour flavors; and herbal or spice flavors.

According to some illustrative embodiments, a method of distributing the containers can include, e.g.: filling a plurality of said containers in a packaging container; and transporting the filled packaging container to a retail center (such as, e.g., for direct sales to consumers).

According to some illustrative embodiments, a method of freshening an individual includes: providing the individual with a container having a plurality of breath fresheners contained therein and a mirror; having the individual place at least one of said breath fresheners in the individual's mouth for breath freshening purposes; and having the individual view himself or herself in said mirror for visage freshening purposes. In some embodiments, said visage freshening purposes can include determining whether the individual's face needs freshening

and/or can include freshening the individual's face with cosmetic products or devices.

The above and/or other aspects, features and/or advantages of various embodiments will be further appreciated in view of the following description in conjunction with the accompanying figures. Various embodiments can include and/or exclude different aspects, features and/or advantages where applicable. In addition, various embodiments can combine one or more aspect or feature of other embodiments where applicable. The descriptions of aspects, features and/or advantages of particular embodiments should not be construed as limiting other embodiments or the claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying figures are provided by way of example, without limiting the broad scope of the invention or various other embodiments, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a schematic side perspective view of a container according to some illustrative embodiments;

FIG. 2 is a schematic side perspective view of another container according to some illustrative embodiments;

FIG. 3 is a schematic side perspective view of another container according to some illustrative embodiments;

FIG. 4 is a schematic side perspective view of another container according to some illustrative embodiments;

FIG. 5 is a schematic side perspective view of another container according to some illustrative embodiments;

FIG. 6 is a schematic side view showing portions of illustrative examples A and B depicting some illustrative mirror forming embodiments;

FIG. 7 is a plurality of schematic side perspective views showing other containers according to some illustrative embodiments in which the container can be operable as a mirror stand;

FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram showing a container located within the pants pocket of a user;

FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram showing a plurality of containers filled with oral products, such as, e.g., breath fresheners, contained within a transport package (such as, e.g., a crate, cardboard box, box and/or the like);

FIGS. 10-18 are other views of containers according to some illustrative embodiments;

In particular, FIG. 10 is a front perspective view according to some embodiments, FIG. 11 is a first end view taken from the left side of the embodiment shown in FIG. 10, FIG. 12 is a second end view taken from the right side of the embodiment shown in FIG. 10, FIG. 13 is a side view taken from a front side of the embodiment shown in FIG. 10, FIG. 14 is a side view taken from a back side of the embodiment shown in FIG. 10, FIG. 15 is a top view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 10, and FIG. 16 is a bottom view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 10;

In addition, FIGS. 17(A)-17(D) show various alternative top views that may be employed instead of the structure shown in FIG. 15; and

FIG. 18 is an exploded view showing a device similar to that shown in FIG. 10 with an internal cover plate member removed and with an illustrative slider cover.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The following description sets forth some illustrative preferred embodiments of the invention. It should be understood based on this disclosure that the following description is illustrative and non-limiting and that various modifications, alterations, changes and/or the like can be employed in various embodiments of the invention. In addition, various components of the various embodiments can be replaced with equivalent structures (including presently known equivalents and/or future known equivalents) as would be understood based on this disclosure.

Illustrative Embodiments

FIGS. 1-9 show some illustrative embodiments of the invention. In the preferred embodiments (such as, e.g., in preferred implementations of the embodiments shown in FIGS. 1-9), an oral-product container is provided that includes: a) a plurality of breath fresheners contained therein for breath freshening purposes; and b) a mirror for visage freshening purposes. Although a variety of illustrative embodiments are shown, it should be understood based on this disclosure that the illustrative embodiments can vary widely and that these are merely some preferred examples.

In preferred embodiments, the container can be used by an individual in order to orally consume one or more breath freshener for breath freshening purposes and/or to visually view himself or herself for visage freshening purposes. In this disclosure, the terminology visage freshening purposes

includes, among other things, viewing for purposes of determining if a need exists for visage freshening and conducting visage freshening, such as, e.g., using cosmetic products or devices (such as, e.g., applying blush with a blush applicator, applying mascara with a mascara applicator, applying lipstick with a lipstick applicator, removing cosmetics with a cosmetic remover [which can include, e.g., a tissue and/or the like], etc.).

FIG. 1 shows one illustrative embodiment including a container having top and bottom halves that are connected together via a hinge. When in a closed condition, such as, e.g., shown in FIG. 1, the two halves form an enclosure in which oral products can be contained.

In some preferred embodiments, a mirror can be formed on an interior surface of the top half. Upon pivoting the top half away from the bottom half, the mirror can be revealed. In this manner, the mirror can be – to some degree – hidden from view of those accompanying the user. Thus, a user can, e.g., take a quick look at himself or herself while appearing to merely open a container to merely access, e.g., some breath fresheners.

In some preferred embodiments, a mirror can alternatively or additionally be formed on an exterior surface of the top half. In this manner, a user can, among other things, easily utilize the mirror without regard to oral product inside the container (e.g., the user can easily utilize the mirror while the oral product is securely contained in the container).

In some preferred embodiments, a mirror can alternatively or additionally be formed on interior and/or exterior surfaces of the bottom half. Additionally, while in preferred embodiments a mirror will be formed upon a larger side of the container, in some embodiments a mirror could alternatively or additionally be formed on a narrower edge of the container (e.g., either interior and/or exterior to the container, but preferably exterior to the container).

FIG. 2 illustrates another embodiment in which a container has a top portion and a bottom portion that are laterally slidable with respect to one another in order to open the container. In this embodiment, a mirror can be formed – as before – on interior and/or exterior surfaces of the top and/or bottom portions, and upon large sides and/or narrow edges thereof.

FIG. 3 illustrates another embodiment in which a hinged lid is formed in a sub-portion of the container. Among other things, this embodiment can, e.g., facilitate opening of the container to reveal an internal mirror while the oral product is securely contained therein. In preferred implementations of this embodiment, the mirror could be formed internal to the hinged lid. However, in other embodiments, a mirror could be formed alternatively or additionally on other portions of the container.

FIG. 4 illustrates another embodiment in which a mirror can be formed underneath a separate mirror cover. In some embodiments, such as, e.g., shown in FIG. 4, the separate mirror cover can be hinged to the container. In such embodiments, a mirror can be formed on either surface under the hinged cover. In this illustrative embodiment, the mirror can be protected from external environmental factors (e.g., under the cover) and can be isolated from the container interior (e.g., separate from the oral product therein).

FIG. 5 illustrates another embodiment in which a container can have a generally round large side (such as, e.g., a generally circular, elliptical or other rounded shape). It should be understood that a variety of container shapes could be used and the illustrative embodiments are merely exemplary. In the most preferred embodiments, however, the container has a large side and a narrow edge. In this manner, as shown in FIG. 8, the container can, most preferably, easily slide into a storing position, such as, e.g., inside a user's pocket (such as, e.g., a rear pants pocket as shown by way of example).

In some illustrative embodiments, a large side of the container can have a maximum diameter of between about 1 inches and 6 inches. In some other illustrative embodiments, a large side of the container can have a maximum diameter of between about 2 and 5 inches. In some other illustrative embodiments, a large side of the container can have a maximum diameter of between about 3 and 4 inches. In some illustrative embodiments, a narrow side of the container can have a maximum width of between about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and 1 inch. In some other illustrative embodiments, the narrow side of the container can have a maximum width of between about $\frac{1}{3}$ inch and $\frac{2}{3}$ inch. Although not shown, in some embodiments, one or more of the large sides of the container can also include a bowed configuration or curvature so as to conform to a user's buttocks when placed within a pant pocket as shown in FIG. 8.

The illustrative example shown in FIG. 5 also includes a reflective surface or mirror formed exterior to the container. It should be understood based on this disclosure that a mirror could be alternatively or additionally formed interior to the container.

FIG. 6 shows some illustrative methods for forming the mirror on the container. Example A illustrates some instances in which the mirror includes materials attached to the container wall (such as, e.g., using a mirror sticker that is applied, using glues or adhesives to attach mirror components, using a magnetic attachment, using a mechanical attachment [such as, e.g., a rivet, a screw and/or other mechanism] and/or the like). Example B illustrates some instances in which the mirror is formed integrally in the container wall (such as, e.g., a highly buffed metal surface, a chemically treated surface and/or the like).

FIG. 7 shows some illustrative embodiments in which a container has an open position in which the container serves as a stand for the mirror. While the container can serve as a stand for the mirror using a variety of other

configurations (as would be apparent based on this disclosure), in the illustrative embodiment, the container can include an internal mirror on a top half of the container. The container can then be configured such that when it is pivoted open, it can be placed in a fully open position as shown in FIG. 7 in which the container forms a generally A-frame structure or a generally inverted-V structure as shown. Preferably, the container is configured such that the container is lockable in an open position and/or in a closed position (such as, e.g., providing snap-fit engaging members between the top and bottom portions).

FIG. 7 also shows two illustrative examples: Example A shows an opened container having a substantially fully open bottom; and Example B shows an opened container having a partially open bottom. Among other things, Example B can facilitate use of the container in the open position while breath fresheners (shown in dashed lines in Example B) are securely retained in the container.

In some preferred embodiments, the container can be made with metal, such as, e.g., of tin, aluminum, stainless steel, iron, copper and/or other metal. In some preferred embodiments, the container can be made with natural and/or synthetic resins, such as, e.g., various plastics and/or the like. In some preferred embodiments, the container can be made with paper, cardboard, wood and/or the like materials. In some preferred embodiments, the container can be shrouded within a plastic wrap and/or another wrapping medium, such as, e.g., a foil wrap. Among other things, such a wrap can help to protect the contents within the container and/or can help to protect the container itself. Such a plastic wrap could be, e.g., a manually removable wrap that is removed by an end consumer who uses the container for oral and/or visage freshening purposes. In some embodiments, a plurality of containers can be wrapped together for bulk sales to a consumer (such as, e.g., in groups of 2, 4, 6, 12 and/or the like).

Mirror(s)

In various embodiments, a number of mirror constructions can be employed. For example, in some embodiments one or more of the following types of mirrors (i.e., reflective surfaces) can be employed.

1. A glass with a reflective coating (such as, e.g., a metal undercoating), such as, e.g., a common household mirror;
2. A polymer material with a reflective coating;
3. A metal, such as, e.g., aluminum, chrome and/or other metal having a highly reflective surface (such as, e.g., a buffed surface and/or otherwise smooth and reflective surface finish and/or the like).

In preferred embodiments, the mirror has a sufficient extent of reflectivity to enable an individual to hold the mirror or otherwise locate the mirror within about 6 inches to 1 foot, or even within about 1 foot to 2 feet, from the individual's face and to visually perceive facial details without significant content distortion. In preferred embodiments, the reflectivity is sufficient to enable a user to perform common cosmetic visage freshening tasks.

In some preferred embodiments, the mirrors are made with one or more of the following properties: a) breakproof or substantially breakproof materials; b) shatterproof or substantial shatterproof materials; c) appropriate non-toxic materials for food product packaging; and/or d) other appropriate properties for food product packaging.

In some illustrative embodiments, mirrors can employ aspects of one or more of the features of the mirrors shown in the following documents (each of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety and are included in

the above-reference provisional application):

1. <http://www.ultralight-sports.com/mirror.html> (including, e.g., mirrors made from made from a premium reflective plastic film laminated to smooth coated paper);
2. <http://www.e-sci.com/genSci/RENDER/7/1035/1080/9982.html> (including, e.g., mirrors having a substrate that is acrylic with an aluminum coating for a reflecting surface);
3. <http://www.goodturn.biz/mirrors.html>
4. <http://www.csmirrors.co.uk/index.php?pageID=acrylic> (including, e.g., acrylic mirrors);
5. <http://www.csmirrors.co.uk/index.php?pageID=stainlesssteel> (including, e.g., stainless steel mirrors);
6. <http://www.alsacorp.com/Laminates.html> (including, e.g., "ChromeFX sheeting [that] is a decorative product based upon GE HP92H LEXAN® films and a Molecular Metallic Chrome Film protected by the LEXAN® film and backed by an adhesive system").

Oral Products

In various embodiments, a plethora of different oral-products can be contained within the containers. In some embodiments, the oral-products can include, e.g., breath fresheners. For example, such breath fresheners may, e.g., enhance an individual's oral freshness, such as, e.g., oral cleanliness, oral odor and/or the like. Various embodiments can use any currently known and/or later known fresheners, such as, e.g., various breath freshening candies and/or the like, such as, e.g., mint-flavored fresheners, cinnamon-flavored fresheners, fruit-flavored (such as, e.g., lemon, lime, orange and/or the like) fresheners and/or the like. In some embodiments, breath fresheners similar to, e.g., ALToids, TIC

TACS, BARKLEYS, CERTS and/or various other breath freshener products can be used.

In some illustrative embodiments, oral products can include one or more of the following:

- a) gum (such as, e.g., wrapped chewing gum strips [such as, e.g., WRIGLEY'S BIG RED gum sticks, WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT gum sticks, etc.], gum balls [such as, e.g., EVERCREST mint gum balls, etc.]);
- b) candy coated gum (such as, e.g., WRIGLEY'S ECLIPSE rectangular gum chews);
- c) hard-confectionary (such as, e.g., hard mints);
- d) quick-dissolving confectionary (such as, e.g., quick dissolving mints)(such as, e.g., lasting under about 30 seconds in normal usage in an adult user's mouth);
- e) slow-dissolving confectionary (such as, e.g., longer lasting mints or lozenges)(such as, e.g., lasting over one minute in normal usage in an adult user's mouth); and/or
- f) strip-shaped confectionary (such as, e.g., ALTOIDS strips and/or LISTERINE POCKET PACKS, etc.).

While a variety of illustrative oral products are described herein, it should be understood based on this disclosure that various embodiments can employ a variety of other oral products (such as, e.g., various food products [e.g., candies, confectionaries or other food products], medicinal products, flavored products and/or the like).

In some embodiments, the oral products can include breath fresheners having one or more of the following flavors: peppermint, spearmint; other mint flavors; wintergreen; cinnamon; licorice; citric flavors (e.g., lemon, orange, lime,

etc.); sour flavors; herbal or spice flavors (e.g., garlic, onion and/or the like) and/or other now or later known breath freshener flavors.

In some embodiments, the oral products include all or substantially all natural ingredients. In some embodiments, all or substantially all of the ingredients contributing to the flavor of the oral products are natural ingredients.

In some embodiments, the oral products can include at least some or all of the following ingredients (such as, e.g., found in BARKLEYS PEPPERMINT mints): sugar; powdered glucose; sorbitol; maltodextrin; magnesium stearate; oil of peppermint (e.g., triple distilled oil of peppermint); natural and artificial flavors. In some embodiments, the oral products can include at least some or all of the following ingredients (such as, e.g., found in BARKLEYS WINTERGREEN mints): sugar; powdered glucose; maltodextrin; magnesium stearate; artificial flavors. In some embodiments, the oral products can include at least some or all of the following ingredients (such as, e.g., found in BARKLEYS CINNAMON mints): sugar; powdered glucose; maltodextrin; magnesium stearate; natural and artificial flavors; oil of peppermint.

In some embodiments, the oral products have very low calories. In some embodiments, the oral products have very low carbohydrate values, such as, e.g., less than about 10 grams per serving, or, more preferably, less than about 5 grams per serving, or, more preferably, less than about 3 grams per serving, or, more preferably, less than about 2 grams per serving.

In some embodiments, one or more of the following ingredients can be used to create a breath freshener product: sugar, dextrin, starch, arabic gum, natural and artificial flavors, magnesium stearate, carnauba wax (such as, e.g.,

found in TIC TACS). In some embodiments, there will not be a significant source of calories from fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, fiber, vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium and/or iron.

In some illustrative embodiments, the breath fresheners can have a serving size of 1 piece (such as, e.g., about .3-.4 grams per piece), can come in containers having about 30-50 per container, and can have a total amount of calories per serving of about 1-2 calories (such as, e.g., found in TIC TACS).

In some illustrative embodiments, each piece can have one or more, preferably all, of the following amounts (followed by % of daily value): total fat: 0 g, 0%; sodium: 0 mg, 0%; total carbohydrates: 0 g, 0%; sugars, 0 g; and/or protein, 0 g.

In some embodiments, the breath fresheners can include one or more of the following ingredients (such as, e.g., found in ALTOIDS WINTERGREEN mints): sugar; artificial flavor; gum arabic; gelatin; glucose syrup; natural Flavor.

In some embodiments, the breath fresheners can include one or more of the following nutrition facts (such as, e.g., found in ALTOIDS WINTERGREEN mints): serving size = 3 pieces (about 2 g); servings per container = about 50; calories total = about 10; calories from fat = about 0.

In some embodiments, the breath fresheners can include one or more of the following ingredients (such as, e.g., found in ALTOIDS PEPPERMINT): sugar; oil of peppermint, gum arabic, gelatin, corn syrup.

In some embodiments, the breath fresheners can be made to temporarily mask bad breath and/or a bad taste in one's mouth. In some embodiments, the

breath fresheners can be made to (e.g. using chemicals, compounds or the like) help reduce bacteria (e.g., anaerobic bacteria) in a user's mouth.

In some embodiments, the breath fresheners can include, e.g., retsyn, partially hydrogenated cottonseed oil and/or copper gluconate.

In some embodiments, the breath fresheners can include chlorophyll (such as, e.g., in CLORETS) and/or the like to, for example, help absorb or reduce bad odors.

In some embodiments, the breath fresheners can include maltitol and/or other sweeteners.

In some embodiments, the breath fresheners can include xylitol. Among other things, xylitol can be used as a natural sweetener that may help avoid and/or fight cavities.

In some embodiments, the breath fresheners can include zinc gluconate (which, e.g., may block receptors on the anaerobic bacteria such that they will not bind with certain amino acids) such as in, e.g., ZOX mints.

In some embodiments, in which the breath fresheners include components that reduce bacteria, the breath fresheners can include one or more aspect of LISTERINE POCKET PAKS oral strips. In some embodiments, the strips can dissolve quickly in a user's mouth (such as, e.g., within about 30 seconds).

In some embodiments, the breath fresheners can include one or more of the following ingredients (such as, e.g., found in LISTERINE POCKET PAKS): pullulan; flavors; menthol; aspartame; potassium acesulfame; copper gluconate; polysorbate 80; carrageenan; glyceryl oleate; eucalyptol; methyl salicylate;

thymol; locust bean gum; propylene glycol; xanthan gum; coloring (e.g., FD&C green no. 3).

In some embodiments, the breath fresheners can include one or more ingredient having anesthetic properties, such as, e.g., dyclonine and/or hexylresorcinol (which can be found in, e.g., SUCRETS lozenges) and/or other anesthetic elements.

In some examples, as set forth above, the breath fresheners can include gum breath fresheners. In some illustrative example, gum breath fresheners can include one or more of the following ingredients (such as, e.g., found in WRIGLEY'S ECLIPSE peppermint gum): maltitol; gum base; sorbitol; acacia; mannitol; glycerol; natural and artificial flavors; aspartame; color added; acesulfame K; carnauba wax; BHT (to maintain freshness); phenylalanine and/or the like. In some illustrative example, gum breath fresheners can include one or more of the following ingredients (such as, e.g., found in EVEREST POWERFUL MINT GUM: ECLIPSE peppermint gum): sugar; gum base; corn syrup; dextrose; natural flavors (including, e.g., peppermint oil); gum Arabic; xylitol and, e.g., about 2% or less of glycerine, titanium dioxide (or other colorant), confectioner's glaze, carnauba wax, acesulfame K, aspartame, maltodextrin, BHT; and/or the like. In some illustrative example, gum breath fresheners can include one or more of the following ingredients (such as, e.g., found in WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT chewing gum sticks): sugar; gum base; corn syrup; dextrose; natural and artificial flavors, softeners, acesulfame K, BHT and/or the like).

In some embodiments, each individual breath freshener can be individually wrapped within the container (such as, e.g., gum sticks which can, e.g., be wrapped with a paper material, a plastic material, a foil material (such as, e.g., a metalized foil, etc.) and/or the like. In some embodiments, two or more sets of a plurality of breath fresheners can be separately wrapped within the container. In some embodiments, all of the breath fresheners in the container

can be wrapped inside the container, such as, e.g., using a paper wrap inside of a container (such as, e.g., seen in ALTOIDS mints).

In some embodiments, when an internal mirror is employed, preferably the oral-products will not have a significant tendency to crumble such that particulate material (such as, e.g., dust from mints or the like) does not accumulate on the mirror.

With reference to FIG. 9, the figure shows a schematic diagram with a plurality of containers filled with oral products, such as, e.g., breath fresheners, contained within a transport package (such as, e.g., a crate, cardboard box, box and/or the like) according to some preferred embodiments. In this regard, in some embodiments, the oral product filled containers are preferably packaged with a plurality of oral products therein by a manufacturer and/or the like. Then, the products are preferably sold and transported in a packaged state to distributors and/or retailers. Then, the products are preferably sold to end customers or users of the products. In some preferred embodiments, a multitude of filled containers are packaged in transport packages for transport from the manufacturer to the distributor(s) and/or the retailer(s) and/or for transport to the end customer(s).

As described above with reference to FIG. 4, in some embodiments a mirror can be formed underneath a separate mirror cover. In that regard, FIG. 4 shows a mirror cover that can be hinged to the container or that can include any other "covers or doors that are moved using other now or later known methodologies" (language quoted from below under Broad Scope of the Invention) such as, by way of example, employing a slider cover similar to that shown in FIG. 2. In this regard, FIG. 18 shows some illustrative embodiments in which a slidable mirror cover can be used to cover a container having a base and a mirror supporting insert fitted therein. Notably, in preferred embodiments, the base and the insert together form a structure that can be similar to that shown in

FIGS. 10-17(D). As discussed above, in these types of illustrative embodiments employing a separate mirror cover, the mirror can be protected from external environmental factors (e.g., under the cover) and can be isolated from the container interior (e.g., separate from the oral product therein).

As described above, FIG. 10 is a front perspective view according to some embodiments, FIG. 11 is a first end view taken from the left side of the embodiment shown in FIG. 10, FIG. 12 is a second end view taken from the right side of the embodiment shown in FIG. 10, FIG. 13 is a side view taken from a front side of the embodiment shown in FIG. 10, FIG. 14 is a side view taken from a back side of the embodiment shown in FIG. 10, FIG. 15 is a top view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 10, and FIG. 16 is a bottom view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 10.

In the preferred embodiments, in the device shown in FIG. 10, a base (which is preferably formed of metal, such as, e.g., aluminum, steel, tin and/or any other appropriate metal) is provided that contains (e.g., snugly receives) an insert (which is preferably formed of plastic or the like) that supports a mirror as shown. In this regard, as shown in FIG. 15, the insert preferably includes a mirror that is mounted thereon. For example, the insert can include a recess that is configured to surround the mirror and to support the mirror such that a front face of the mirror is substantially flush with a front face of the insert.

In the preferred embodiments, as shown in FIG. 18, during assembly, the insert can be initially removed. Then, product (e.g., mints can be easily loaded into the base). Then, the insert can be easily placed over the product so as to contain the same within the base. Preferably, the insert includes a plurality of depending wide leg portions that taper slightly inwards to snugly wedge into the base when inserted (in the illustrated embodiment, four leg portions are shown by way of example). Preferably, the legs slide freely around any product within the base. In this manner, filling is simplified and does not need to be done via

the small dispensing opening or the like. In this manner, the mirror can be supported external to the product. In addition, the mirror can be supported internal to an external cover. In addition, the mirror can be supported on a substantially rigid, but flexibly member (e.g., using a plastic insert having some resiliency) such that if the cover does bend, the insert can have some freedom of movement further protecting the mirror in some embodiments.

With reference to FIG. 15, in some embodiments, the dispensing opening includes a punch-put cover plate (not shown) sized to fit the opening. For instance, the plate could attach a few points around the opening to the insert body. Then, upon use, a user could punch out the plate and discard the cover plate or push the same down into the container. In some embodiments, however, the opening does not need to employ a cover plate, but the small opening can remain open. In the preferred embodiments, however, the insert substantially separates the mirror from the product compartment area (with, in some embodiments, a small exception for the region of the dispensing opening if such is open).

With respect to FIGS. 17(A)-17(D), these embodiments show other variations in which: FIG. 17(A) shows a view in which all lines shown in dashes are optional, but where the container includes a small opening in the upper surface at the location shown (NB: the opening can have a variety of shapes and this embodiment shows an illustrative circular opening which can be employed); FIG. 17(B) shows a view in which the mirror is not formed to surround the opening, but is formed into a generally rectangular configuration (NB: this embodiment also shows an illustrative circular opening); FIG. 17(C) is similar to FIG. 17(B) with the opening at a different location; and FIG. 17(D) is similar to the embodiments shown in FIG. 17(B) and 17(C) but shows the opening in dashed lines to demonstrate that in other embodiments, the opening can be at any other desired location (such as, e.g., even formed into the base or another location or the like).

With respect to the embodiments shown in FIGS. 10-18, these embodiments depict some preferred embodiments, substantially to scale according to some preferred embodiments of the invention. In some preferred embodiments, devices having the ornamental design as shown in these FIGS. are preferably implemented, which figures are substantially to scale and proportional in some illustrative embodiments.

Broad Scope of the Invention

While illustrative embodiments of the invention have been described herein, the present invention is not limited to the various preferred embodiments described herein, but includes any and all embodiments having modifications, omissions, combinations (e.g., of aspects across various embodiments), adaptations and/or alterations as would be appreciated by those in the art based on the present disclosure. As merely other examples, various other embodiments can include containers with fully removable covers, replaceable covers and/or covers or doors that are moved using other now or later known methodologies. The limitations in the claims are to be interpreted broadly based on the language employed in the claims and not limited to examples described in the present specification or during the prosecution of the application, which examples are to be construed as non-exclusive. For example, in the present disclosure, the term "preferably" is non-exclusive and means "preferably, but not limited to." Means-plus-function or step-plus-function limitations will only be employed where for a specific claim limitation all of the following conditions are present in that limitation: a) "means for" or "step for" is expressly recited; b) a corresponding function is expressly recited; and c) structure, material or acts that support that structure are not recited.

What is claimed is:

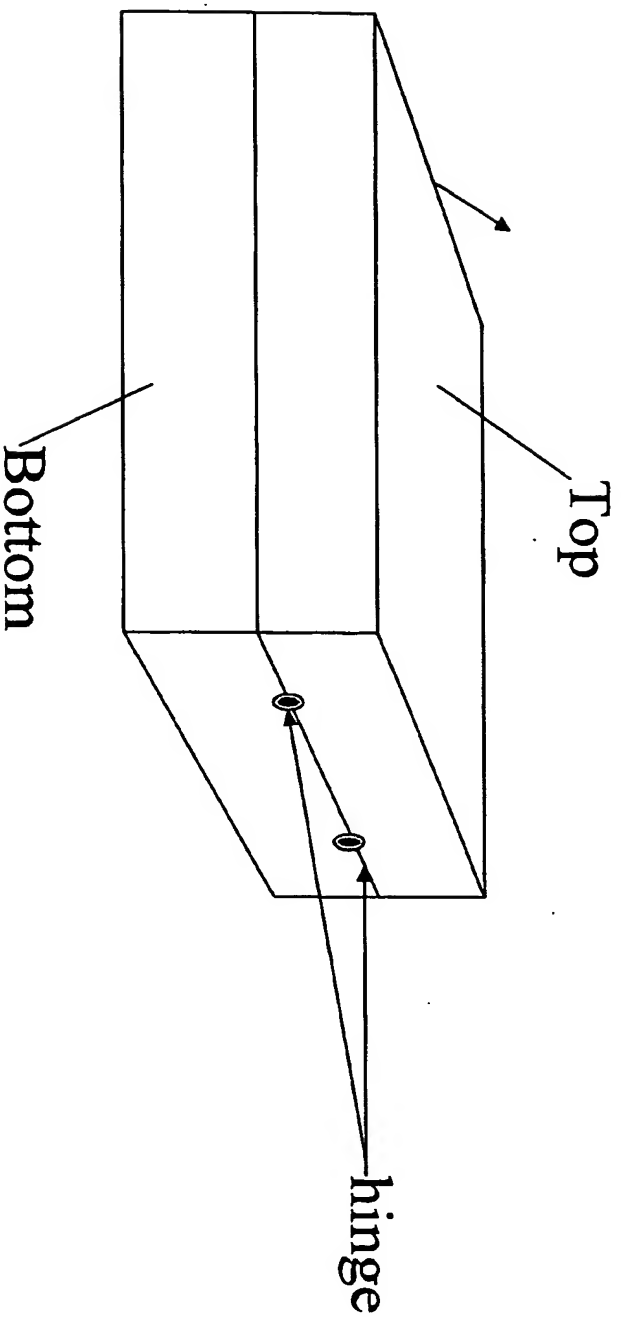
1. An oral-product container, comprising:
 - a) a plurality of breath fresheners contained therein for breath freshening purposes; and
 - b) a mirror for visage freshening purposes.
2. The container of claim 1, wherein said mirror is on an interior of said container when said container is closed.
3. The container of claim 1, wherein said mirror is on an exterior of said container when said container is closed.
4. The container of claim 1, wherein said breath fresheners include at least flavor from the group consisting of: peppermint; spearmint; other mint flavors; wintergreen; cinnamon; licorice; citric flavors; sour flavors; and herbal or spice flavors.
5. A method of distributing containers of claim 1, comprising:
 - a) filling a plurality of said containers in a packaging container;
 - b) transporting the filled packaging container to a retail center.
6. A method of freshening an individual, comprising:
 - a) providing the individual with a container having a plurality of breath fresheners contained therein and a mirror;
 - b) having the individual place at least one of said breath fresheners in the individual's mouth for breath freshening purposes; and
 - c) having the individual view himself or herself in said mirror for visage freshening purposes.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said visage freshening purposes includes determining whether the individual's face needs freshening.
8. The method of claim 6, wherein said visage freshening purposes includes freshening the individual's face with cosmetic products or devices.
9. An oral-product container, comprising:
 - a) a plurality of breath fresheners contained therein for breath freshening purposes;
 - b) a mirror for visage freshening purposes;
 - c) a mirror cover such that the mirror can be protected from external environmental factors under the cover; and
 - d) wherein said mirror is isolated from the container interior such as to be separate from the oral product therein.

ABSTRACT

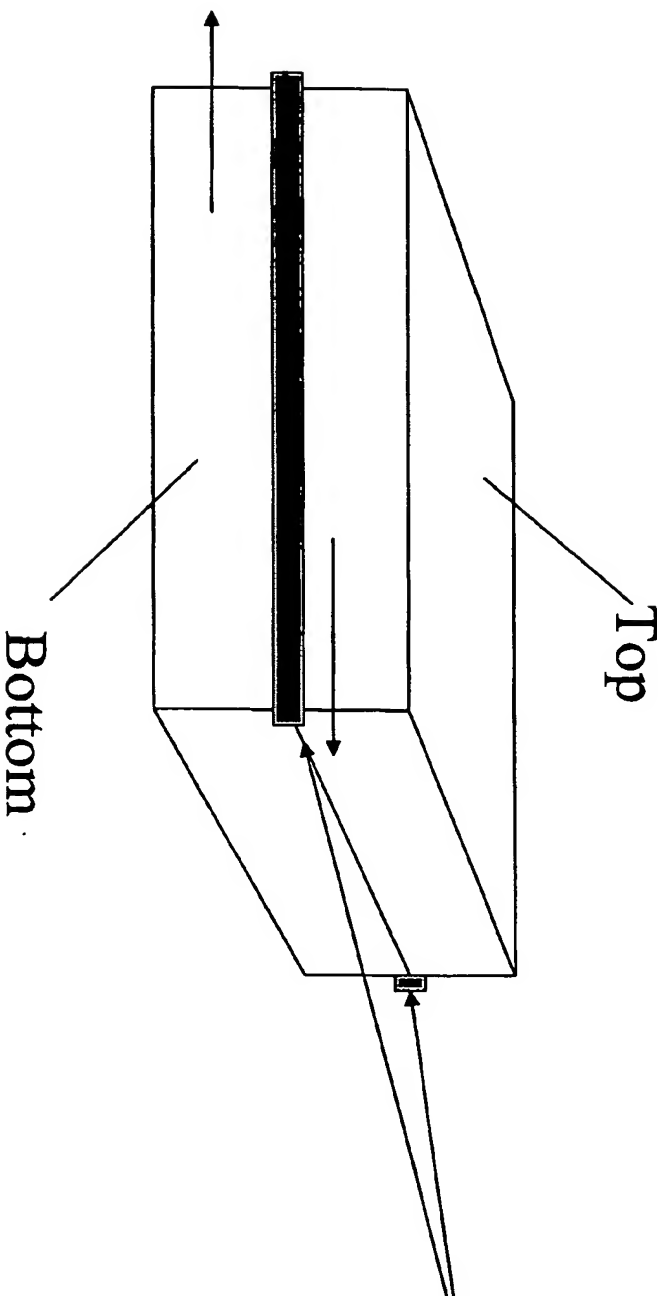
An oral-product container is disclosed that includes: a) a plurality of breath fresheners contained therein for breath freshening purposes; and b) a mirror for visage freshening purposes.

FIG. 1



Mirror: Attached or integrally formed in interior bottom and/or top.

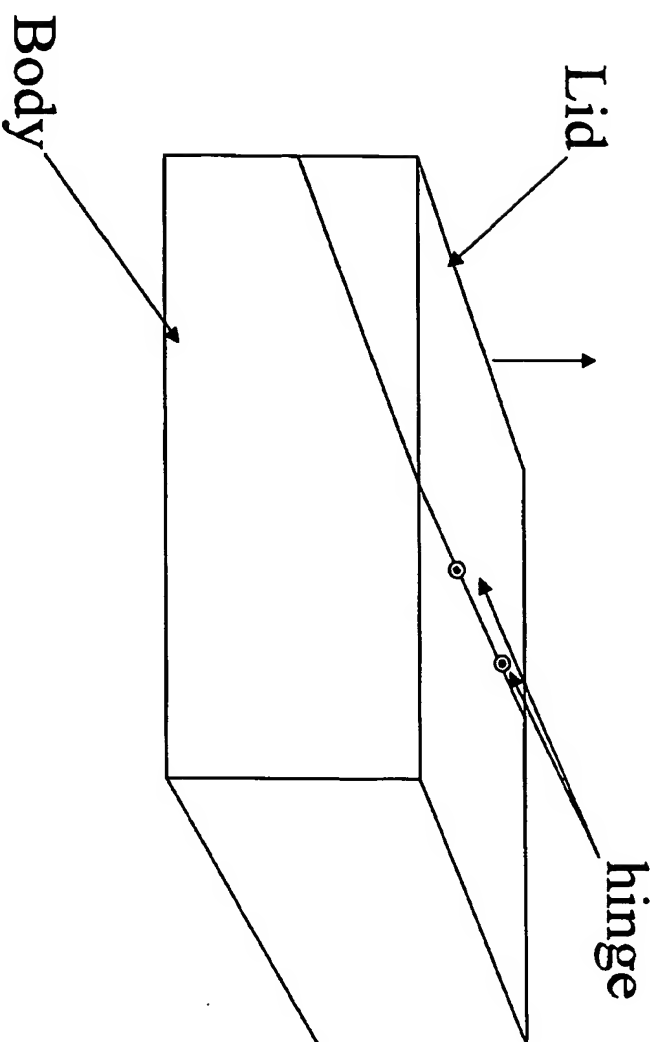
FIG. 2



Mirror: Attached or integrally formed in interior bottom and/or top.

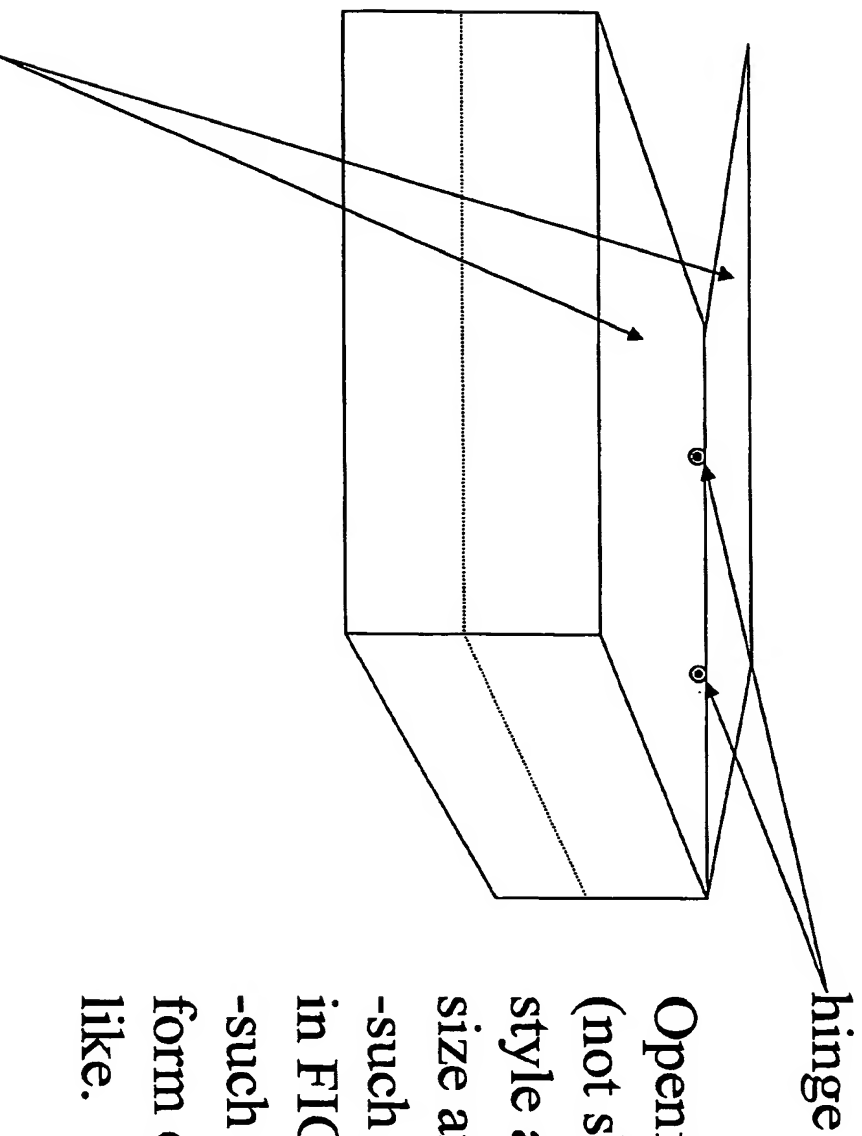
Channels:
Top/bottom
Slide relative
To each
Other
Via
Interlocked
Channels
(either
Separate
Elements or
Integral with
Top and/or
Bottom)

FIG. 3



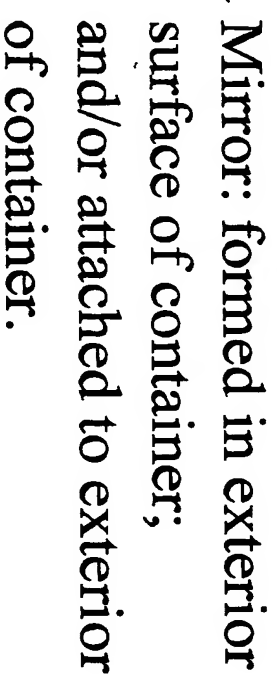
Mirror: Attached or integrally formed in interior of lid (i.e., sub-portion of container).

FIG. 4



Opening into container
(not shown) can be any
style and/or
size and/or shape:
-such as, e.g., as shown
in FIGS. 1-3; and/or
-such as, e.g., another
form of opening or the
like.

INVENTOR: ISAAC BERG
MIRRORED ORAL-PRODUCT
CONTAINER
ATTY. DKT.NO.: 2227-104 5 of 18



Dashed line indicates that exterior of container can be (if desired) contained within a protective covering (such as, e.g., during transport) to, e.g., protect mirror. Cover can include, e.g., plastic wrap (e.g., providing a full enclosure) a removable sticker (e.g., covering only a mirror and/or a portion of the container); etc.

FIG. 6

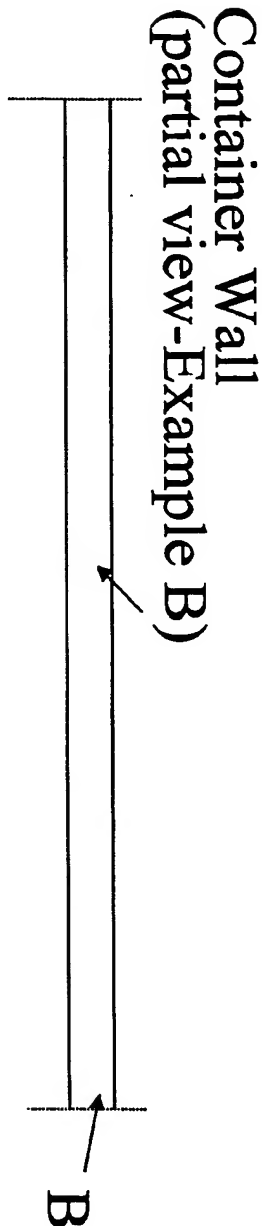
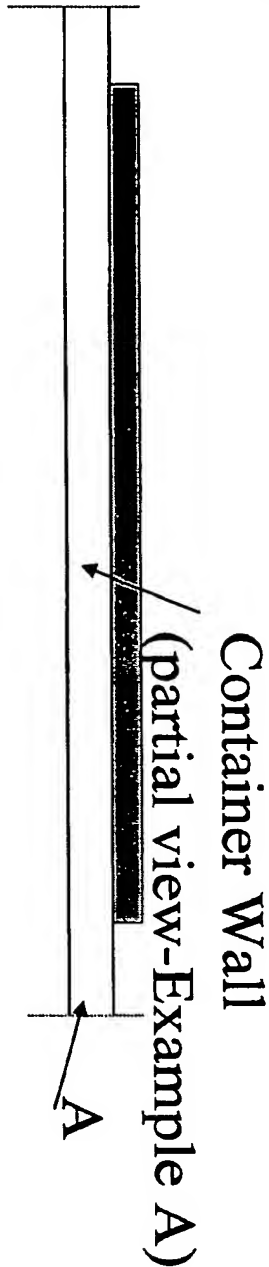


Diagram A: mirror attached to container wall (e.g., mirror sticker, glue attachment, magnetic attachment and/or other).

Diagram B: mirror integral with container wall (e.g., buffed reflective surface and/or other).

FIG. 7

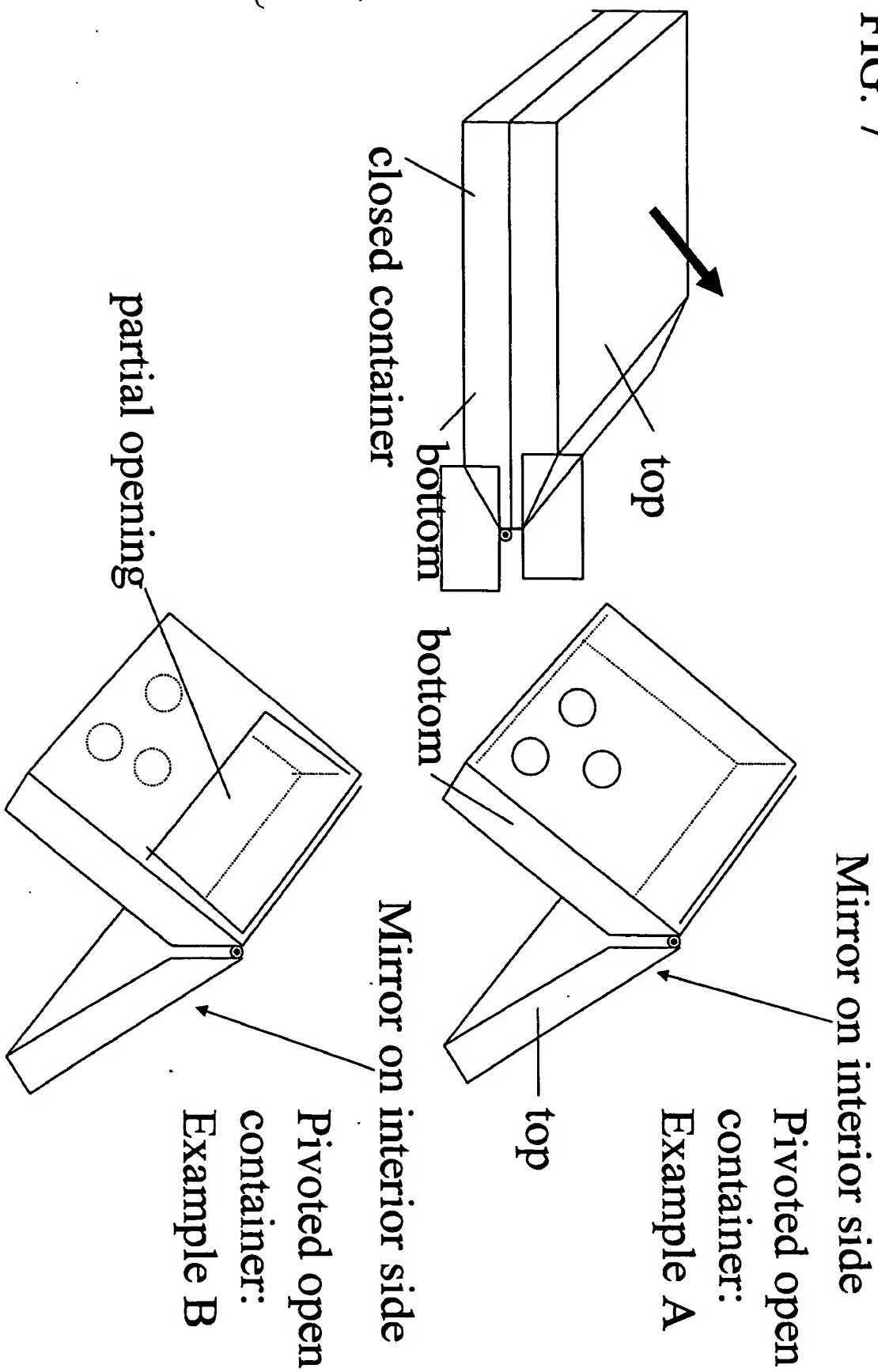


FIG. 8

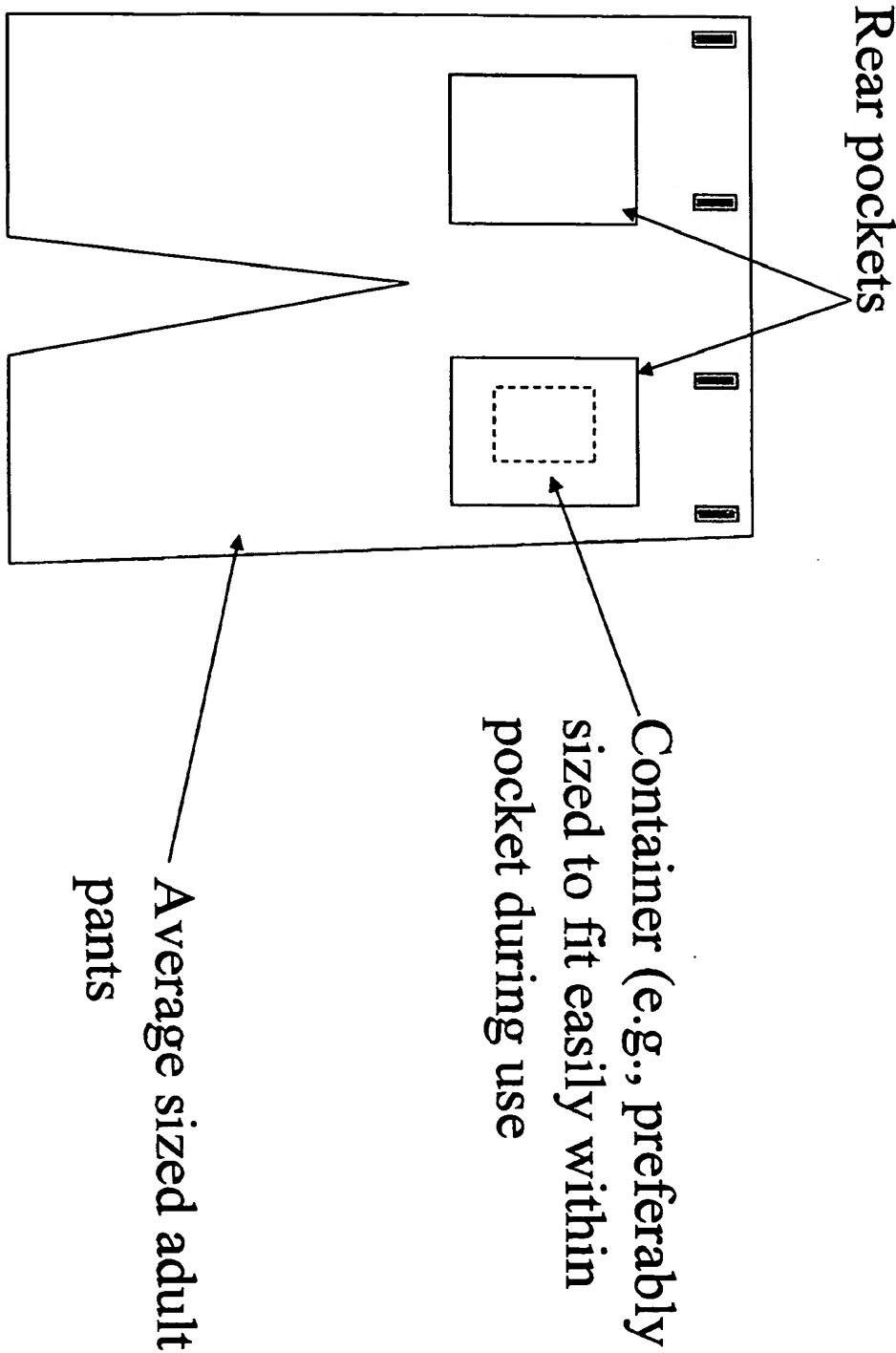
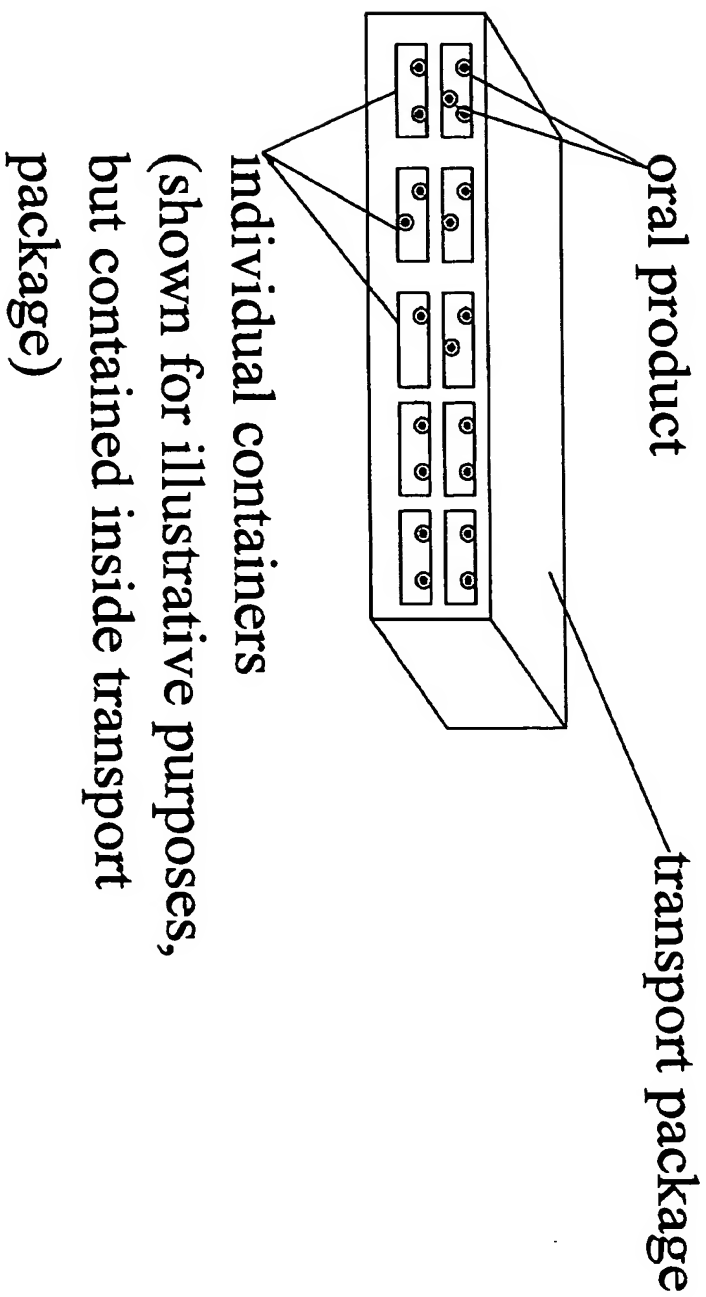


FIG. 9



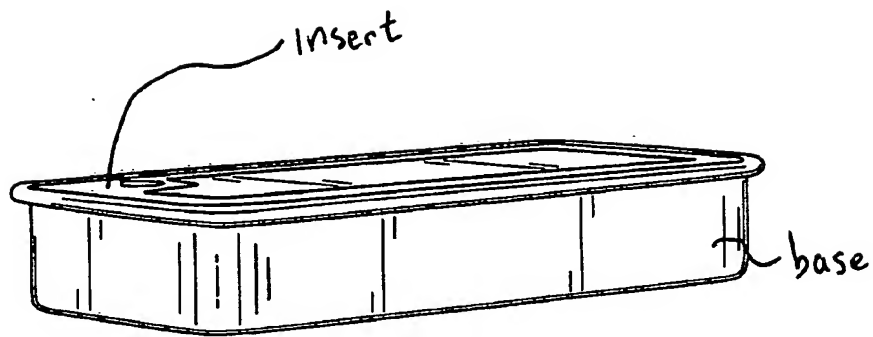


FIG. 10



FIG. 11

INVENTOR: ISAAC BERG
MIRRORED ORAL-PRODUCT
CONTAINER
ATTY. DKT.NO.: 2227-104

12 of 18



FIG. 12

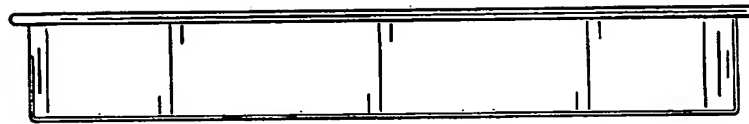


FIG. 13

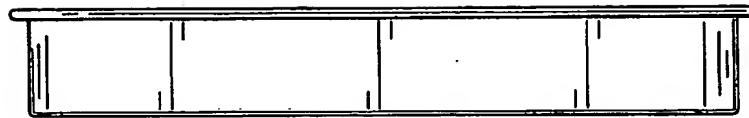


FIG. 14

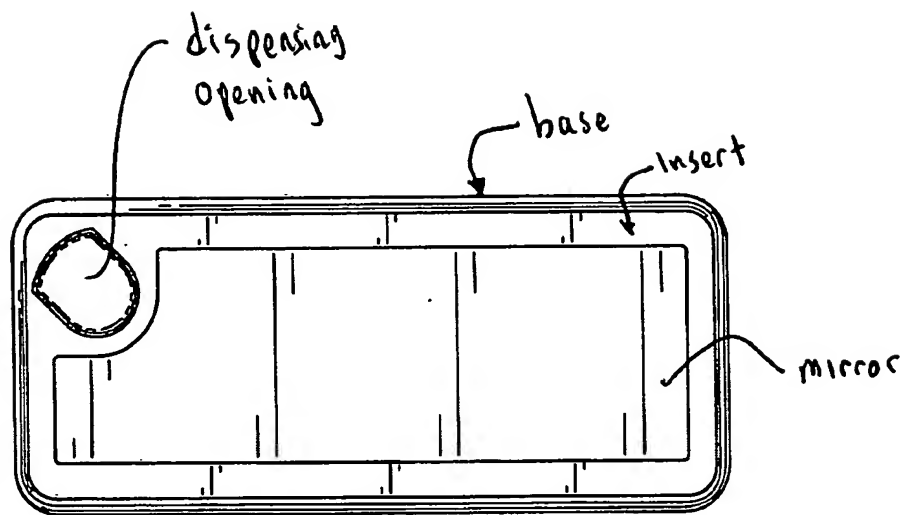


FIG. 15

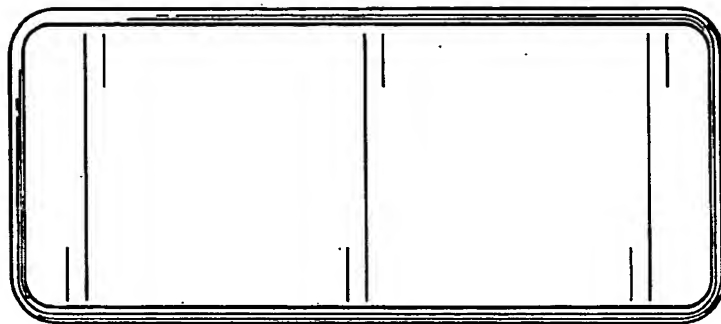


FIG. 16

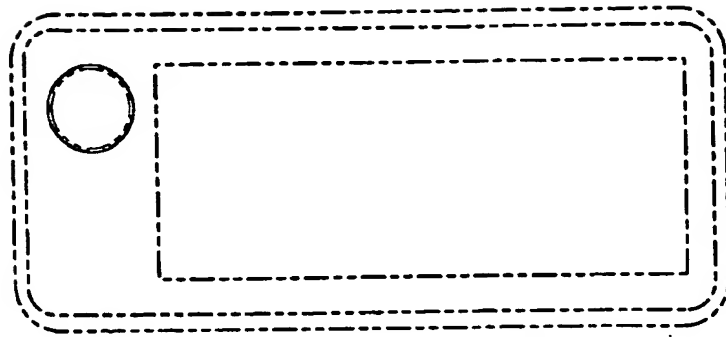


FIG. 17(A)

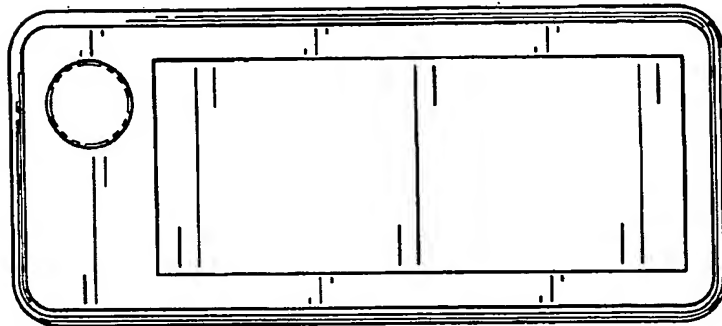


FIG. 17(B)

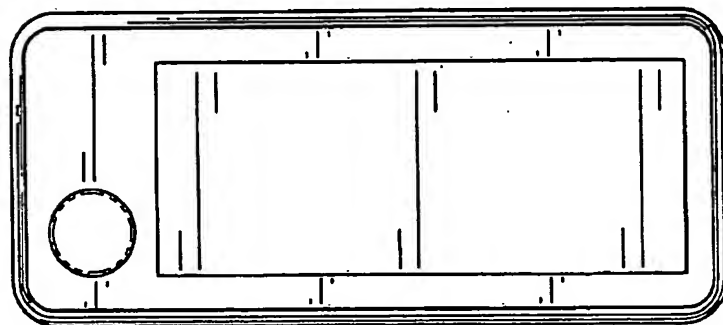


FIG. 17(C)

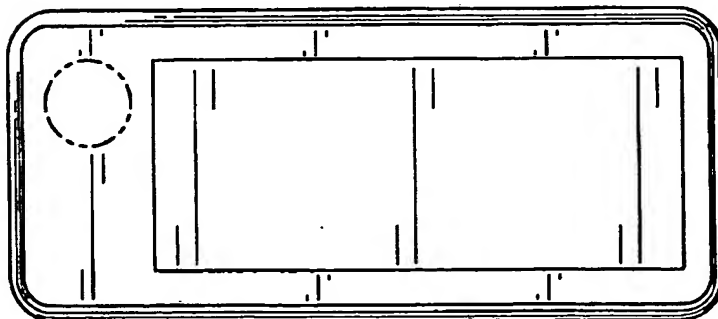


FIG. 17(D)

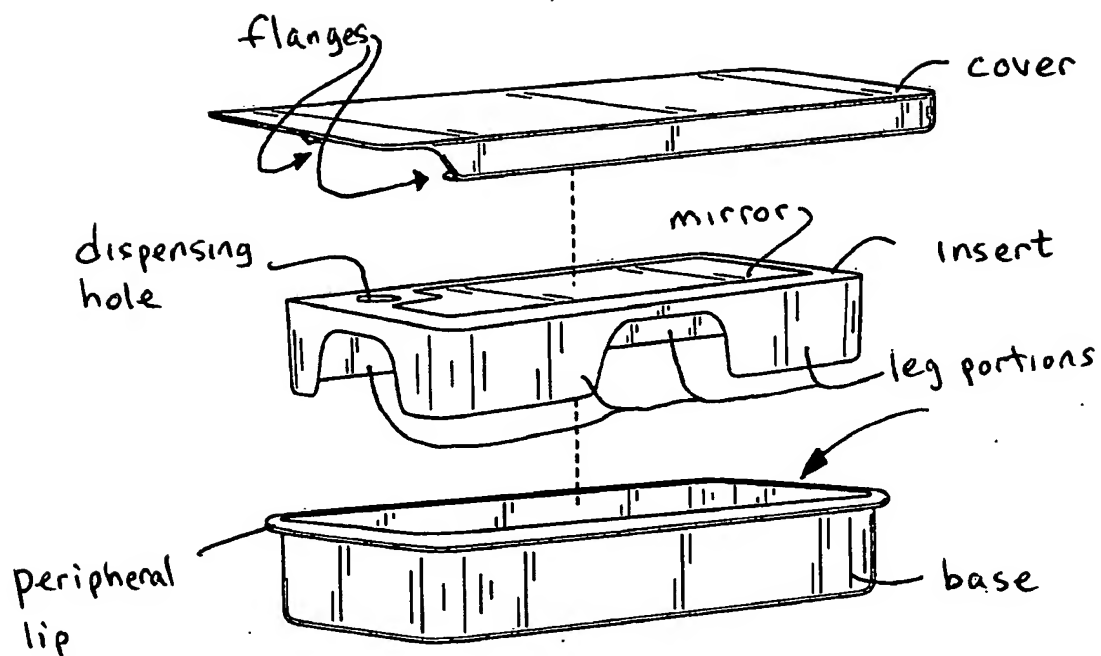


FIG. 18

Here: cover includes downward flanges that can slide around and engage the base under the peripheral lip shown.

APPLICATION DATA SHEET

Application Information

Application Type:: Regular
Subject Matter:: Utility
CD-ROM or CD-R?: No
Title:: MIRRORED ORAL-PRODUCT CONTAINER
Attorney Docket Number:: 2227-104
Request for Early Publication?: No
Request for Non-Publication?: No
Total Drawing Sheets:: Eighteen (18)
Small Entity:: Yes
Petition included?: No
Secrecy Order in Parent Appl?: No

Applicant Information

Applicant Authority type:: Inventor
Primary Citizenship Country:: United States
Status:: Full Capacity
Given Name:: Isaac
Middle Name:: ---
Family Name:: Berg
City of Residence::
Country or Residence:: Hawaii
Street of mailing address:: 500 Hakaka Place
City of mailing address:: Honolulu
Country:: Hawaii

Postal or Zip Code of mailing address::96816

Correspondence Information

Customer ID No.: 6449

Name:: Rothwell, Figg, Ernst & Manbeck

Street of mailing address:: 1425 K Street, N.W.

Suite 800

City of mailing address:: Washington

State or Province of mailing address:: DC

Postal or Zip Code of mailing address:: 20005

Telephone:: (202) 783-6040

Fax:: (202) 783-6031

2227-104.utility ADS

Document made available under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

International application number: PCT/US04/034353

International filing date: 18 October 2004 (18.10.2004)

Document type: Certified copy of priority document

Document details: Country/Office: US
Number: 10/858,391
Filing date: 02 June 2004 (02.06.2004)

Date of receipt at the International Bureau: 09 December 2004 (09.12.2004)

Remark: Priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b)



World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) - Geneva, Switzerland
Organisation Mondiale de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OMPI) - Genève, Suisse